

**Mansfield Board of Education Meeting**  
**June 13, 2013**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Randy Walikonis, Vice Chair, Susannah Everett, April Holinko, Katherine Paulhus, Jay Rueckl, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin

**Absent:** Martha Kelly, Carrie Silver-Bernstein

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Mr. LaPlaca

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

- Board Member Presentation: Shamim Patwa was honored for thirteen years' service on the Board of Education.
- Bus Driver Presentation: Sue Rizdon was honored for 24 years' service as a Mansfield Public Schools bus driver.
- CAFE Award: Heather Abdullah and Sam Huang, eight graders at the middle school, were honored by Mr. LaPlaca with the CAFE Student Leadership Award.
- Southeast School Presentation: Sue Irvine, Enrichment teacher, presented three students who shared their talent they performed in the Southeast School Talent Show. The students were Tim Newmyer, Athavan Balakumar, and Yuria Yamamoto.

**HEARING FOR VISITORS:** None

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA:** None

Carrie Silver-Bernstein arrived at 8:15pm

**BROADCASTING BOARD MEETINGS:** Mr. Baruzzi presented options for broadcasting meetings held in the Council Chamber, which the Board reviewed and discussed. MOTION by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Mr. Rueckl to audiotape meetings in Council Chamber beginning September 2013, and if possible meetings elsewhere, with link to taping to be posted on website and Parent Handbook to be revised to reflect taping at meetings. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Teacher of Year Committee: Ms. Silver-Bernstein reported that Mike DiCicco, fifth grade teacher at the middle school, has been appointed Mansfield's 2014 Teacher of the Year.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

- Mansfield Public Schools Professional Learning and Evaluation Plan  
<http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/11150/13915/11152/13583/default.aspx>:  
Dr. Linda Robinson reviewed the components of Mansfield's plan which has been approved by the State Department of Education. MOTION by Mrs. Holinko, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein, to adopt the Mansfield Public Schools Professional Learning and Evaluation Plan. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.
- 2013-2014 Food Service Price: Mr. Baruzzi reviewed the Mansfield Food Service program and its success this year resulting in the recommendation to not increase meal prices for the 2013-2014 school year. MOTION by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Ms. Everett to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of no price increase for the 2013-2014 school year. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.
- Healthy Food Certification: MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded Mrs. Paulhus to adopt the Connecticut Nutrition Standards Healthy Food Certification Statement for the 2013-2014 school year. VOTE: Unanimous in favor. MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus to adopt the Connecticut Nutrition Standards Exclusion for the 2013-2014 school year. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.
- Quarterly Financials: Cherie Trahan, Director of Finance reported there were no significant issues in third quarter financial statements. MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Mr. Rueckl to accept the Quarterly Financial Statements for the Quarter ending March 31, 2013. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

- 2013-2014 Budget: Mr. Baruzzi reviewed his recommendation for the reinstatement of \$200,000 to the Board's 2013-2014 budget as approved at the Mansfield Town Meeting. MOTION by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Mr. Walikonis to approve the Superintendent's recommendations with line item adjustments for employee benefits. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.
- Paraprofessional of the Year: Dr. Leclerc announced that Mansfield's Paraprofessional of the Year is Lodamia Clark, Instructional Assistant at Vinton School.
- Teacher Evaluation Report: Mr. Baruzzi presented the annual teacher evaluation report.
- Board of Education Retreat: The Retreat is June 20, 2013 at 5:30pm at the Bishop Center.
- Mansfield Public Schools Common Core State Standards District Plan 2013-2014: Mr. Baruzzi presented the plan which was distributed to staff on Thursday.
- German Exchange Breakfast, Monday, September 30, 2013: Mr. Baruzzi reported that the German Exchange will not occur during a Board of Education meeting. In lieu of the students attending a Board meeting, a breakfast for the Board to honor the visitors will be held on September 30, 2013 in the middle school cafeteria.
- Mansfield Public Schools 2013 Summer Programs: Mr. Baruzzi reviewed the various summer programs the district will hold this summer.
- Class Size/Enrollment: The principals noted no major changes in class size or enrollment in the past month.

NEW BUSINESS: MOTION by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Mr. Walikonis to remove the minutes from the Consent Agenda. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Mrs. Holinko to approve the minutes of the Board of Education May 9, 2013 meeting. VOTE: Unanimous in favor with Mrs. Paulhus and Mr. Rueckl abstaining.

CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Ms. Everett, to approve the following items for the Board of Education May 9, 2013 meeting. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

That the Mansfield Public Schools accept the retirement of Lynda Barrow, Enrichment teacher at Vinton School effective the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

That the Mansfield Public Schools accept the resignation of Kelly Brouse, Enrichment teacher at Mansfield Middle School effective the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: None

MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein to move into Executive Session to discuss Superintendent's evaluation, non-union wages and salaries, and grievance settlement at 10:10pm. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

Mr. Baruzzi joined the Board in executive session until 11pm.

The Board returned to open session at 11:19 pm.

MOTION by Ms. Paulhus, seconded by Ms. Holinko to vote individually on wages and salaries of each non-union Board employee, rather than as a group. VOTE: Ms. Paulhus and Ms. Holinko in favor. Ms. Silver-Bernstein, Mr. Rueckl, Mr. Walikonis, and Ms. Everett opposed. The motion failed.

MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, on behalf of the Personnel Committee to increase the salaries of the Asst. Director of Facilities, Food Service co-directors, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, the Personnel Assistant and the IT Director by 1.7% and to change the percentage of insurance premiums paid by the Asst. Director of Facilities and the Food Service co-directors to 15%, the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and the Personnel Assistant to 16.5% and the IT Director to 18%. VOTE: Ms. Silver-Bernstein, Mr. Rueckl, Mr. Walikonis, Mrs. Holinko, Ms. Everett and Mr. LaPlaca in favor. Mrs. Paulhus opposed. The motion passed.

MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, on behalf of the Personnel Committee to extend the Superintendent's contract by an additional year, to give a 0% increase the Superintendent's base salary, to increase the percentage of insurance premium paid by the Superintendent to 18% and to add to the Superintendent's contract a Board

contribution to an annuity in the same amount currently established in the Administrator's contract. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Ms. Everett, seconded by Mr. Walikonis to adjourn at 11:25pm. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk